

MLADINSKA KNJIGA PUBLISHING HOUSE

# BOOKS 2024

## MLADINSKA KNJIGA PUBLISHING HOUSE

When speaking about publishing in Slovenia, sooner or later one comes across the name Mladinska knjiga, the country's largest publishing house with the longest tradition. It publishes more than 350 new titles per year and is proud of its book club, which has more than 50,000 members and has been operating for almost five decades.

Mladinska knjiga has been in operation since 1945 and has successfully maintained its status as the largest publishing house in Slovenia with extensive fiction and non-fiction lists for all generations as well as an educational programme and magazines for children and teenagers. Special attention is devoted to picture books. Created by renowned award-winning authors and illustrators, combined with the highest quality content and design, our picture books appeal to readers and publishers all over the world. We are developing programmes for all books in different formats and have maintained our position as the main trendsetter among Slovenian publishers.

International cooperation started in 1965 and developed significantly during preparation for the 2023 'Guest of Honour' project at the Frankfurt Book Fair. After having sold over 700 rights to more than 50 countries, Mladinska knjiga brings to the world an enriched portfolio of over 400 internationally relevant titles, created hand-in-hand with a community of over 600 authors and illustrators and over 40 award-winning and internationally renowned authors and illustrators who are participating in the Slovenian 'Guest of Honour' project.

Mladinska knjiga takes pride in achieving the highest standards of quality at all levels and activities.

Ever-new stories are written on me  
that no one knows about.  
I try to erase them but they do not fade away.

“They are here so you can tell them on,  
then they will not burden you anymore.”

That was your advice, Hasima ...  
But whom to tell? When and where?

Samira Kentrić, Adna

# ERICA JOHNSON DEBELJAK

Foto: Saša Kovacič



**ERICA JOHNSON DEBELJAK** is an American-Slovenian author and translator. She is a best-selling writer in Slovenia where she has published memoirs, novels, essays, and has worked as a regular columnist. Her publications in the United States include the memoir *Forbidden Bread* (2009), which received excellent reviews and continues to sell. Most recently, her essay "Just Passing Through" was published in *Salmagundi Magazine* (2019).

## **VIRGIN WIFE WIDOW WHORE**

*(Devica, kraljica, vdova, prasica)*

is a memoir about the sudden and shocking death of Erica's husband in Slovenia, the country where she has made her home since her marriage more than two decades previously, the trauma and grief that ensues, and her rite of passage from wife to widow. Erica's famous literary husband is struck by a truck on a road side. At the time of his death, Erica and two of her three children are far away from Slovenia, Erica visiting her mother in California. She must make the harrowing transatlantic journey in the company of strangers. She returns to a maelstrom, the whole country mourning its golden son and in a frenzy of speculation about what happened. In the first week, she must plan a public funeral. In the months that follow, she must deal with the bureaucracy of death in the foreign country she calls home. She finds comfort – release from the unrelenting emotional pain – in the arms of a young man who was his student. She eventually finds a way to say goodbye to the love of her life and a way forward to a new life and understanding of herself. *Virgin Wife Widow Whore* belongs to the bereavement genre but also transcends it. Erica widens the canvas by weaving through her own experience the enthralling stories of widows past – Tamar and Judith from the bible, Hecuba and Penelope from mythology, the last sati widow, Roop Kanwar, from India, and Queen Gertrude from *Hamlet* – and thus tells a story about the power and endurance of women throughout history. Erica also confronts the taboos of death and widowhood in our society: the stigmatization, medicalization, and bureaucratization of bereavement, the struggle for material survival, and finally the dangerous sexuality of widows.



› WINNER OF THE BEST BOOK AWARD OF THE SLOVENIAN BOOK FAIR IN LJUBLJANA, 2021

**Rights sold to Croatia, India, Serbia and Germany.**

# MIHA KOVAČ

Foto: Saša Kovačič



**MIHA KOVAČ** is a professor at the Department of Library and Information Science and Book Studies at the University of Ljubljana. During the publishing part of his career, he worked as an editorial director in two of the largest Slovene publishing houses and as an editorial director of the Slovene edition of National Geographic Magazine. His main research interests are publishing and reading statistics, diversity in European book production, bestsellers in Europe and reading research. From 2012 to 2016, he was in charge of the Research and Development Group at Mladinska Knjiga Publishing House, which is developing digital learning tools for primary and secondary education in Slovenia. From 2015 to 2019, he was a dissemination officer at the COST E-READ network. He is the author of more than fifty articles and four books in Slovene, Croatian and English on reading and book publishing.

## READ TO BREATHE

*(Berem, da se poberem)*

Although based on the latest scholarly research, the author discusses the meaning of book reading in a journalistic narrative enhanced with graphics in a way that makes the book comprehensible to non-specialists. The book's main point is that in an abundance of digital recreational and informational content in text, audio and video format, readily available to any smartphone user, the nature and perception of book reading has changed as well. The author shows that besides enjoying the content, book readers benefit from a set of "positive externalities" of long-form reading that are not present when using screen media. These positive side effects represent an important counterweight to some of the negative effects of social media and as such allow more balanced and productive use of screen content, thus making the book an important member of the quickly growing media family. The author discusses these positive effects of book reading in ten short illustrated chapters.

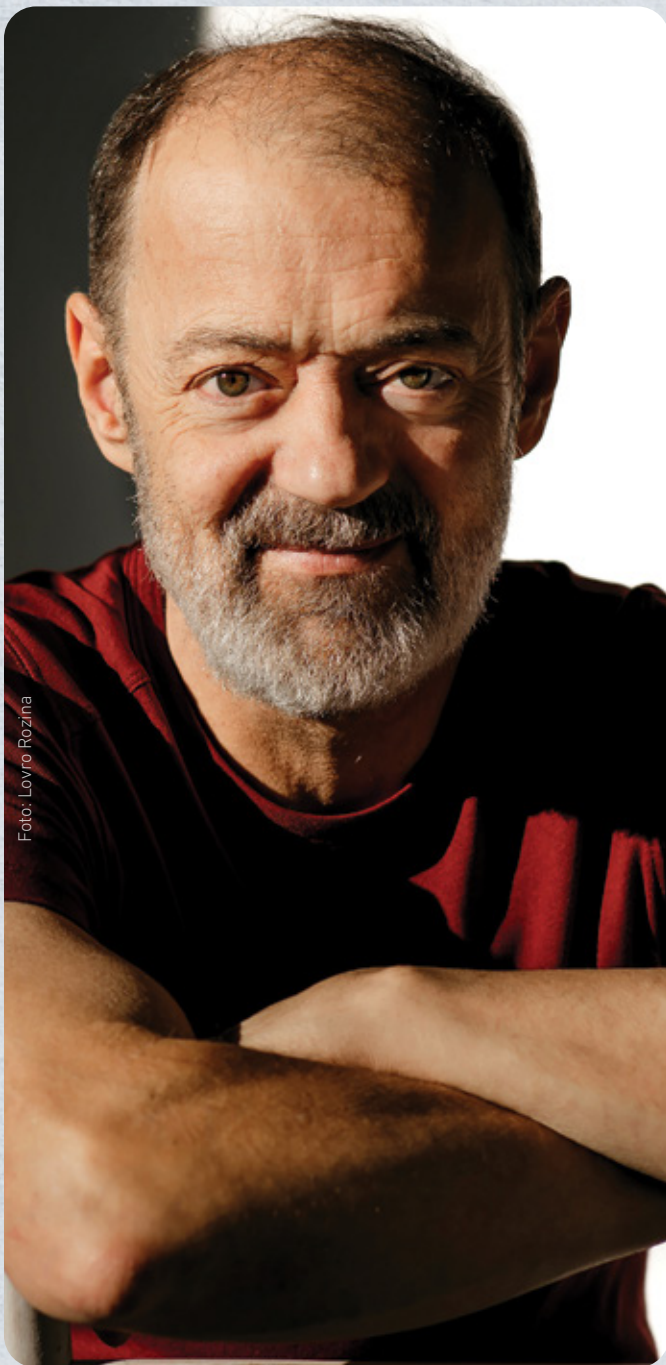


› **NOMINATED FOR THE BEST BOOK AWARD OF THE SLOVENIAN BOOK FAIR IN LJUBLJANA, 2020**

**Rights sold to Croatia, Lithuania, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Serbia and Montenegro.**

# ROMAN ROZINA

Foto: Lovro Rozina



**ROMAN ROZINA** first worked in newspaper and television journalism, then more than ten years ago he switched to authorship and other forms of media. To date, more than twenty of his monographs, annuals and chronicles have been published, the content of which relates to Zasavje (the Central Sava valley) area of today and yesteryear. The last such work, *Vodnik po Zasavju V 3 krasne* (*A Guide to Zasavje: Hrastnik, Trbovlje and Zagorje*) was published in September 2009.

Roman has only been writing literature for the last few years. In the spring of 2008, his debut book *Štiri Sneguljčice in Palček* (*Four Snow Whites and a Dwarf*) was released. His short story *Zasuj me z besedami* (*Fill me with words*) won him the Slovenian Book Days competition for the best short story in 2009. In 2010, in addition to *Galerija na izviru Sončne ulice* (*The Gallery at the source of Sunny Street*), Roman's story *Relativnost triptih z vrtnica* (*The Relativity of triptych with roses*) was also published. In 2011, *Galerija na izviru Sončne ulice* was ranked among the ten novels nominated for the Kresnik Award.



### **ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BLINDNESS** (*Sto let slepote*)

The novel *One Hundred Years of Blindness* testifies to the extraordinary power of the writer's narrative. The saga of the Knap family, with a multitude of historical references, develops into a monumental fresco of Slovenian society in the 20th century. (Julija Uršič)

One can easily find parallels with Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* in this novel, as the title itself suggests. The story approaches magical realism in a number of places, but does not really cross over into it. The closest it comes is in the introductory part, a kind of mythical beginning of the story. In Podgorje, riddled with mining excavations that undermine the terrain and threaten to swallow the Knap family's house, blind Matija – the novel's main protagonist – is born just as the house begins to sink. And it is here that a hundred years later – after most of the events unfold in the valley and among the Knaps – that the story also concludes.

From the cast of characters, five central ones emerge, who sketch the social matrix, a Slovenian world in miniature, against the background of various social trends – women's emancipation, capitalism, socialism and Christianity. Matija's place in this matrix remains as open as the role of blindness: is it really 'merely' a hundred years of Matija's blindness? Or perhaps of the social blindness that marked the 20th century? And what does this even represent? Can this novel open our eyes?

**Rights sold to Germany and Latvia.**

› [THE KRESNIK AWARD FOR THE BEST NOVEL OF THE YEAR 2022](#)

### **OUTLANDERS** (*Tujintuj*)

Roman Rozina's novel *One Hundred Years of Blindness* alludes to Márquez's masterpiece. His latest one, entitled *Outlanders* (Sl. *Tujintuj*), refers even more obviously to the Slovenian classic by Ciril Kosmač, *Tantadruj*. Both *Outlanders* and *Tantadruj* are about the non-acceptance of difference and those who are different, about their collisions. And both unfold in a single day and night.

A paramilitary group that monitors illegal crossings is based in a hunting lodge near the border, which is often crossed stealthily by refugees and migrants. There is also a humanitarian association working at the border, which helps refugees and ensures that their human rights are not violated during official procedures. Issues of solidarity with refugees and migrants, on which the public is clearly divided and which arouse all kinds of passions, are interwoven into the story from all angles. The novel that arises brings to light not only different beliefs and fears and their confrontations, but also different interests and personal stories. A group of refugees remain trapped in an indistinct grey zone.

# SAMIRA KENTRIĆ



**SAMIRA KENTRIĆ** (1976) is a visual artist and graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts and Design at the University of Ljubljana, majoring in visual communications. In her art, she combines public and political speech with the intimate, and through her works communicates that which is unreflected, unpleasant, and hidden in society. She has been a member of the Eclipse artistic tandem for many years, and in recent years she has also led art workshops for vulnerable groups. She has done the art work for many books and newspapers, collaborates with several publishing houses and lyricists, and has published books of her own (*Balkanalia*, Beletrina, 2015; *Letter to Adna*, Beletrina, 2016). She is the recipient of various accolades and awards; among others, she received a commendation from the jury for artistic images from the novel in progress *Adna* at the 13th Slovenian Biennial of Illustration.

## ADNA

The idea for the book *Adna* came from the illustrated booklet *Letter to Adna* (Beletrina, 2016), in which a farewell letter and the circumstances in which it is written end Adna's never very carefree childhood. Adna, a girl in her early twenties, comes face to face with the memory of her refugee past. She wonders about the meaning of existence after the deaths of loved ones, but is unable to share her traumatic experience with anyone. Although she is quite fortunate that her guardian provides her with a materially and intellectually dignified life and she is seemingly well integrated into the society in which she finds herself, she remains alone. She has no problems making contacts, she does well in new circumstances, but she carefully hides who she really is from the outside world. She has control over her appearance and over her sexuality, but deep inside her there remains a locked-up pain, right up until the day her world unexpectedly starts to spin differently and forces her into opening up and stepping forward. The graphic novel *Adna* was created over the years from 2016 to 2020. During this period the author made over 130 illustrations. Samira Kentrić's powerful images are searingly direct, relevant, and uncompromising, remaining with us long after we put the book down. The author expresses her strong social conscience and engagement through these images, and at the very end, knits them together with an exceptional text that reveals the background to the images and tells the intimate story of a girl who, after a traumatic experience and a long period of numbness, lives a full life and finds meaning in it.

**Rights sold to North Macedonia.**



# TADEJA KREČIČ SCHOLTEN



**TADEJA KREČIČ SCHOLTEN**, a translator from French and a journalist for the ARS radio station, is also gaining increasing recognition as an author of short stories. They are published in magazines, and at the 47th literary competition of the magazine Mladika in 2019 she won the first prize for the story *Ether Is a Bad Translator*.



## **IT'S NEVER TOO LATE** (*Nikoli ni prepozno*)

The collection of short stories *It's Never Too Late* is her first book. Although most of the stories have a proverb for the title - *Old Love Does Not Rust*, *Home Sweet Home*, *You Never Forget Your First*, *Man Proposes*, *War Disposes* - the stories do not follow the well-known life experience suggested by the proverbs. We meet a particular hero or heroine on a crucially important day for them: when they are hesitating over an important decision, when their lover's wife knocks on the door, when a girl's father dies, when a middle-aged woman goes on a date, when a deep emptiness sets in after days of celebration... All the previous days are reflected in this decisive day, as are, even more so, the diverse and rich inner worlds of the protagonists. Although these are mostly intimate miniatures, the wider social environment is not insignificant and also enters into the story as we move with the protagonists from Slovenia to the Netherlands, Bavaria, Sicily and Serbia. It is obvious that to the author *nothing human is alien*, hence the actions of the heroes balance on the verge of the tragicomic.

# SILVO GRMOVŠEK



**SILVO GRMOVŠEK** (1952) is the author of numerous popular and professional articles and book reviews, mainly in the field of domestic studies, which have been published in various collections and magazines. In the 1970s, he was a journalist at Radio Študent and later a co-founder of the KINA 16 association, where he put together film retrospectives and a cinema programme, organised visits by local and foreign film directors, etc. In 2022, he received the Goropevšek Award for his contribution to the development of Slovenian domestic studies.

## **MILAN IDA AND HOSTNIK'S GANG** (*Milan Ida in Hostnikova banda*)

Victory was won, peace was concluded, but the storm of war had not completely subsided. The groundbreaking social changes dictated by the socialist revolution were accompanied on the one hand by a version of Yugoslav Stalinism and retaliatory violence, and on the other by the euphoria of building a new world. The novel, set mainly in the Šalek Valley and its wider surroundings just after the end of the World War II, is divided into two parts, which also make up its title. In the first, the central character is Ida, while the second follows the central trio of Hostnik's gang – a group of partisan deserters and members of Matjaž's army, who fight uncompromisingly against the new Bolshevik government. The key narrative 'seam' in the transition from the first to the second part is the tragic death of Ida, while the second part covers the unfolding of some of the characters associated with Ida in the time after her death. The novel is about a not very well-known post-war event, about a 'bandit-like struggle' against the post-war government; and this fight – given the realistic positions of power – is accompanied by crazy courage and tragedy, which is further strengthened by an unexpected love story.

Readers should judge for themselves whether the Udba material from the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia and Eric Hobsbawm's work titled *Bandits* contributed to the persuasiveness of the fictitious persons and events.

# MILAN KLEČ



**MILAN KLEČ** (1954) is one of the most prolific contemporary Slovenian authors, known as an excellent prose storyteller and chronicler of everyday life. He received the Golden Bird Award (1982), the Seven Secretaries of SKOJ Award (1989), and in the same year, i.e. 1989, also the Župančič Award. In 2006, he was awarded the Prešeren Fund Prize for Literature.

## **SUNSET** (*Sončni zahod*)

Afterword: Aljoša Harlamov

Photographs: Boris Gaberščik

In the introduction to the new collection of short stories, which will be published to mark Milan Kleč's 70th birthday, the author explains: "It's a good feeling, even if I copied the title. To recap, all the story titles are from Boris Gaberščik, from the master. It's amazing that I quivered as soon as I wrote what I want to say by the following. It's as if I'm simultaneously figuring out why I've resisted writing for the last few years. Simply, precisely because of this quivering. To be honest, it has always got on my nerves, because who am I to sigh and get excited about something and at the same time maybe feel like I'm embracing the whole world. Pleasant feelings, who cares when everything is in the palm of your hand, when you quiver, when excitement embraces you, when you're just fine. As every moment should be. I must add that I found such moments tolerable in my younger days, I even rooted for them, because it seems indecent to me to feel like a dewy young lady in my old age."

I don't know what possessed me to think that maybe it wouldn't be bad if I started writing another book, which I somehow justified with my seventieth birthday just round the corner.

# STANKA HRASTELJ

Foto: Marko Kosović



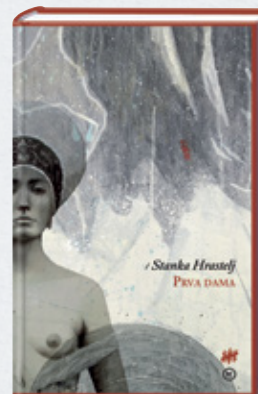
**STANKA HRASTELJ** (1975) has so far published two collections of poems: *Nizki toni* (*Low Tones*, 2005) and *Gospod, nekaj imamo za vas* (*Sir, I Have Something For You*, 2009); the novel *Igranje* (*Acting*), published in 2012, is her first prose work. It won the Blue Bird Competition for adult novels organised by Mladinska Knjiga. Her novel *Prva dama* (*First Lady*) was published in 2018.

The novel **ACTING** (*Igranje*) consists of the personal reminiscences of the main character, a woman with a loving husband and, after she loses her job, suddenly with too much time on her hands. Although she can now do what she has always wanted, her interest in the world outside gradually disappears. Her waking state is increasingly mingled with dreams. She has a feeling that she is being watched, she hears voices, she is afraid of people, while at the same time she pretends everything is normal. Through the lens of her special psychological state everyday situations acquire unusual dimensions and meanings.



#### **THE FIRST LADY** (*Prva dama*)

This novel is a reworking, in minimalist style and condensed manner, of the Biblical story of the beautiful Bathsheba and King David. The king's "controversial" wife is an archetypal femme fatale, who is aware of her charms also in an emancipatory sense and, regardless of the means and victims, in an almost mathematically calculating way exchanges them for a "better" life – marriage to the educated king loved by his people and through this a climb up the social ladder, a better position, and consequently better pay and independence. Although Bathsheba's life seems like a fairy tale, inside her grows a nagging feeling of guilt. Using fate and god as an excuse does not bring her peace, but pushes her towards self-destructive behaviour.



**Rights sold to Germany and Serbia.**

# MILJANA CUNTA



**MILJANA CUNTA** (1976) has published three collections of poetry: *Za pol neba* (For Half the Sky), *Pesmi dneva* (Poems of the Day) and *Svetloba od zunaj* (Light from Outside). Her poetry has been translated into several languages and nominated for Slovenia's main poetry awards. She also writes journalistic texts and reflections on poetry. Miljana has translated poems from English and Italian by Christina Rossetti, Denise Levertov, Alda Merini and Patrizia Cavalli. She was the Programme Leader of the Vilenica and Fabula festivals, the coordinator of the Živa coprnija project, and the mentor of literary workshops as part of the *Vključujemo in aktiviramo!* (We include and activate!) initiative. She studied comparative literature and literary theory as well as English language and literature at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana, where she earned her Master's degree with the thesis titled *Contemporary Critical Views of Victorian Poetry*.

## LIGHT FROM OUTSIDE

(*Svetloba od zunaj*)

Poetry is irreplaceable because of its capacity to reveal the preciousness of individual moments, throw light on their invisible dimensions, the positive and negative richness of their meanings, sometimes so intensely that for an instant it questions human transience itself. Miljana Cunta adheres to this timeless logic also in her third collection, entitled *Svetloba od zunaj* (Light from Outside). Through the poetic surface, describing fateful and unnoticeable everyday events, meetings and goodbyes, readers glean the depths of their own sensed but unpronounced story. The recognisable discipline in recording atmospheric and intellectual oscillations is enriched with suggestive word shifts and relaxed, sometimes playful passages. Words undulate in unique rhythms, which are not the result of a formalistic game, but emerge from the content, from a living contact with life: out there, an uncertain, faint, but thick light can be sensed. It seems that the poet feels rather than sees it. And together with her, the readers, who slowly discover the traces scattered around the five cycles in the collection.



# VINKO MÖDERNDORFER

Foto: Gaja



**VINKO MÖDERNDORFER** (1958) is a poet, writer, playwright and director. He has directed over one hundred theatre and opera performances. He also works as a radio, television and film director. He has written and directed three feature films: *Predmestje* (*Suburbs*), *Pokrajina številka 2* (*Landscape No. 2*) and *Inferno*. He has published over forty books of prose, poetry, drama and essays. He has received numerous awards, among them the Prešeren Fund Award and the Župančič Award; in 2009 he was given the Immortality Cup Award for his achievements in poetry in the last ten years.



The novel **NOBODY WRITES LETTERS ANYMORE** (*Nihče več ne piše pisem*) begins with a scene in which the main protagonist Ivan finds a white envelope in his post box, on which the address is written in ink. The letter takes him back to the time when he was in secondary school, and inseparably connected with Sonja and Pavel. They were a legendary threesome, but after the baccalaureate, Sonja suddenly escaped from their lives to Australia, while something unfinished and unspoken remained among them, which marked all three of them. And now the secrets suddenly begin to surface.

In recent years, Mladinska Knjiga has also published the following novels for young people and adults by Möderndorfer: *Kot v filmu* (*Like in a Film*), *Kit na plaži* (*A Whale on the Beach*), *Vaje iz tesnobe* (*Exercises in Anxiety*), *Balzacov popek* (*Balzac's Navel*), *Konec zgodbe* (*End of the Story*).

# SUZANA TRATNIK



Foto: Nada Žgank

**SUZANA TRATNIK** (1963) is one of the most important Slovene female authors and has for many years been a lesbian activist. She has published a number of short stories, novels and essay works, which have been translated into 20 languages. She also works as a translator of fiction from English into Slovene. She has received numerous awards, among them the Prešeren Fund Award for her book *Vzporednice* (*Parallels*) in 2007.



**BINGO OR LIFE!** (*Tombola ali življenje!*)

Sixteen-year-old Mija is growing up feeling trapped in a small, boring town, with her mother who is desperately trying to tie her to a job, and with her mostly absent father who is filling her head with empty promises and dreams about a better future. During a period of disappointments – over school, decisions about the future, her parents, best friend and boyfriends – Mija has to learn for herself which path is the right one for her and who in her life is worth betting on. Her search for answers, which in the end brings surprising results, is an excellent read even for those whose teenage years are far behind them. This novel by the multiple award winner Suzana Tratnik was nominated for the 2016 Blue Bird Award, which is awarded by Mladinska Knjiga to hitherto unpublished Slovene fiction.

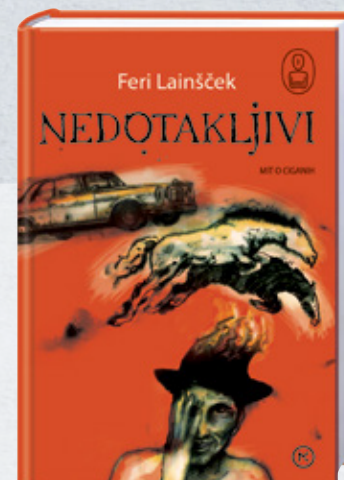
**Rights sold to Serbia.**

# FERI LAINŠČEK



Foto: Denis Cizar

**FERI LAINŠČEK** (1959), writer, playwright and scriptwriter, is one of the most popular Slovene writers. His bibliography includes over 100 books for children and adults, some of which have been translated into other languages. He has received numerous awards. In 1995, he was given the Prešeren Fund Award for his novel *Ki jo je megla prinesla* (*She Who Was Brought By the Fog*). He has received the Kresnik Award for the best Slovene novel twice, in 1992 for his novel *Namesto koga roža cveti* (*Instead of Whom Does the Flower Bloom*) and in 2007 for the novel *Muriša*. Six feature films have been made on the basis of his novels, among them *Petelinji zajtrk* (*Rooster's Breakfast*), the second ranking Slovene film in terms of viewer numbers since Slovenia's independence.



The novel **UNTOUCHABLES** (*Nedotakljivi*) is an excellent Slovene contribution to the international collection *Myths*, in which over 40 publishers from around the world took part. Feri Lainšček, who has always been enchanted by the "gipsy soul", decided to write a myth about the Roma. He used a legend about how the Roma made the nails for the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and how the last of the red-hot nails could not be extinguished. This is why Jesus was crucified with three nails only. The fourth nail continues to travel around the world. A masterful tale, bubbling with the nomadic human spirit pushing through the tragic with unbelievable inventiveness and stubbornness. The story has also been made into a film. Mladinska knjiga has published other two novels by the writer: *Jadrnica* (*Sailing Boat*) and *Ki jo je megla prinesla* (*She Who Was Brought By the Fog*). And Cankarjeva Založba Publishing House has published two exceptionally well-received collections of poems by Lainšček: *Ne bodi kot drugi* (*Do Not Be Like Others*) and *Demon ljubezni* (*The Demon of Love*).

**Rights sold to Spain, Poland, Hungary, Iran and Turkey.**  
**Translated in to Croatian, Czech, Danish and Italian languages.**



# JURE JAKOB



Foto: Tihomir Plinter

**JURE JAKOB** (1977), a poet and essay writer, studied philosophy and comparative literature (MA) at the Ljubljana Faculty of Arts. He is the author of a monograph about the prose of Lojze Kovačič *Otroški pogled* (A Child's View) and four collections of poems: *Tri postaje* (Three Stations), *Budnost* (Being Awake), *Zapuščeni kraji* (Deserted Places) and *Delci dela* (Fragments of Work). He is considered the most lucid Slovene poet of his generation.



Jakob's first prose work **HOUSES AND OTHER ESSAYS** (*Hiše in drugi prosti spisi*) is a book of essay-like prose sketches, a book of memory and imagination, a book of experiences. When an experience is repeated, this is re-experience. Re-experience, which is interested more in inner states rather than external circumstances changes freely but not randomly from memory to fiction. The hidden anxieties and bright moments from childhood and youth return in the shape of a passion for narrating, like shadows of a time that still persists.

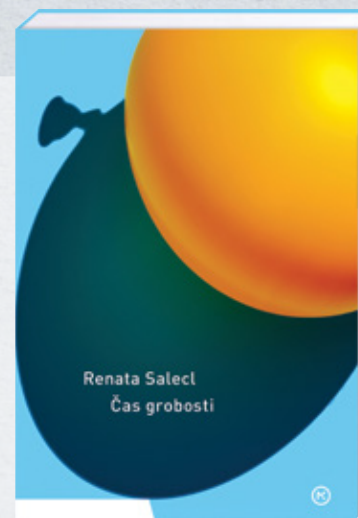
Jakob has received two awards for *Houses and Other Essays*: the 2016 Critic's Sieve Award and the 2016 Rožanc Award for essay-writing.

# RENATA SALECL



Foto: Šimen Zupancič

**RENATA SALECL**, a philosopher and sociologist, is a full professor and a research counsellor, employed by the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana. She is also a visiting professor at the Cardozo School of Law, New York and at the School of Law, Birkbeck College, University of London. Her books, among them *(Per)verzije ljubezni in sovraštva* (*(Per)versions of Love and Hate*), and *Izbira* (*Choice*), have been translated into ten languages. She also writes columns for various European newspapers, including the Slovene *Delo* and the Barcelona based *La Vanguardia*.



## **UNCIVIL TIMES** (*Čas grobsti*)

*Dr. Renata Salecl, philosopher, sociologist, and author of many influential books, reflects on why communication between people is becoming increasingly discourteous, why there is less and less respect in the workplace, and why we increasingly close ourselves off in information bubbles and have little tolerance for opposing views.*

This collection of essays touches on the problems of social media-related incivility, workplace burnout, and the general violence and callousness of neoliberal society. Given growing indifference and individualism, the author also raises the question of how we can stop the flight into ignorance and how to resist the harmful struggle for profit, which ignores the problems of society and closes its eyes to environmental impacts. These essays providing an insightful analysis of modern society will help us understand the kind of world we live in.



#### **A PASSION FOR IGNORANCE** (*Strast do nevednosti*)

*An original and provocative exploration of our capacity to ignore what is inconvenient or traumatic.*

Ignorance, whether passive or active, conscious or unconscious, has always been a part of the human condition, argues Renata Salecl. What has changed in our post-truth, post-industrial world is that we often feel overwhelmed by the constant flood of information and misinformation. It sometimes seems impossible to differentiate between truth and falsehood and, as a result, there has been a backlash against the idea of expertise, and a rise in the number of people actively choosing not to know. The dangers of this are obvious, but Salecl challenges our assumptions, arguing that there may also be a positive side to ignorance, and that by addressing the role of ignorance in society, we may be able to reclaim the role of knowledge. Drawing on philosophy, social and psychoanalytic theory, popular culture, and her own experience, Salecl explores how the passion for ignorance plays out in many different aspects of life today, from love, illness, trauma, and the fear of failure to genetics, forensic science, big data, and the 'incel' movement – and she concludes that ignorance is a complex phenomenon that can, on occasion, benefit individuals and society as a whole. The result is a fascinating investigation of how the knowledge economy became an ignorance economy, what it means for us, and what it tells us about the world today.

**Rights sold to Azerbaijan.**



#### Her latest book of essays **RUNNING ON THE SPOT** (*Tek na mestu*)

is a collection of reflections on the problems of modern society and the individual within it. The texts reflect changes in the fields of ethics, medicine, parenthood, genetics, consumerism and poverty. She talks about the anxieties faced by people on a daily basis and the painful choices that do not guarantee a less difficult future. In spite of the constant talk about the need for progress, it seems that societies are more or less running on the spot. Individuals, meanwhile, are both at work and in their private lives constantly under pressure to run better and faster than others. They work ever more so that they can consume more and sooner or later begin to consume themselves. This appears as workaholism, dependence on drugs or alcohol, and in the new symptoms such as anorexia, bulimia and other forms of self-harm.

**Rights sold to Croatia.**



#### **HUMAN TO HUMAN VIRUS** (*Človek človeku virus*)

*"Political discourse that speaks of infection and immunity is firmly entrenched in society. With the increase of social control, the militarisation of societies and in some places also an increase in police violence, the pandemic has led to the formation of the foundations of new forms of authoritarianism."*

This insightful analysis by Dr. Renata Salecl helps us to understand how the world works. The short book *Human to Human Virus* brings an in-depth reflection on the various changes that coronavirus and the pandemic has brought to our lives. These are essayistic, short, but concise reflections on the changes in society with the advent of coronavirus. The philosopher and sociologist, Renata Salecl, is an excellent connoisseur of social levers and events. In this book, she analyses what a pandemic means as a lever for society. She explains why lockdowns imposed to contain the virus also led to a closed, authoritarian, police relationship, and why, despite the fact that the virus didn't declare war on us, we have introduced military discourse and a war of words, why the preventative measures and negative feelings revolved so much around pleasure, or at least those that enjoy it anyway and why they shouldn't. It covers coronary envy, corona usufructuary, as well as distress, which can be counterproductive and can even be expressed as terrorism, such as coughing on purpose in other people's faces. And the phenomenon of mass purchasing of toilet paper and also why, and according to what criteria some lives have a higher value, others a lower value, about robots and changes in etiquette, codes of conduct, etc.

**Rights sold to Croatia.**

#### **APATHY** (*Apatija*)

*Neoliberalism has established an atmosphere in which for many, apathy has become a way out of the incessant pressure to achieve greater productivity, success and happiness.*

Dr. Renata Salecl, philosopher and sociologist, has ascertained that during a time of incessant traumatic social situations and political perturbations, an increasing number of people are deciding to remain within their bubbles or to disconnect from daily information. During the pandemic, many people were confronted with both anxiety and apathy. But apathy is not something that we experience in times of social crises. Neoliberalism has established an atmosphere in which for many, apathy has become a way out of incessant pressure to achieve greater productivity, success and happiness. In the political space, apathy cannot be perceived as being entirely negative. In a time of heated political passion, apathy can paradoxically allow a moment of reflection and distance from daily events. The book examines the difference between apathy and melancholy, describes the quandaries of the apathy of the pandemic, and asks what distinguishes apathy in post-socialism from that which is seen in other neoliberal societies.

# TOMAŽ GRUŠOVNIK



**TOMAŽ GRUŠOVNIK**, assistant and research fellow at the University of Primorska, is the author of two scientific monographs and numerous scientific articles, in which he forms mental puzzles that he gathers, reworks and publishes in his literary texts. He was a scholar of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism in Oslo and Fulbright in New Mexico (USA), and has made appearances at universities, conferences and public lectures in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America.



## **THE TWO OF US WON'T SAVE THE WORLD!** (*Midva ne bova rešila sveta!*)

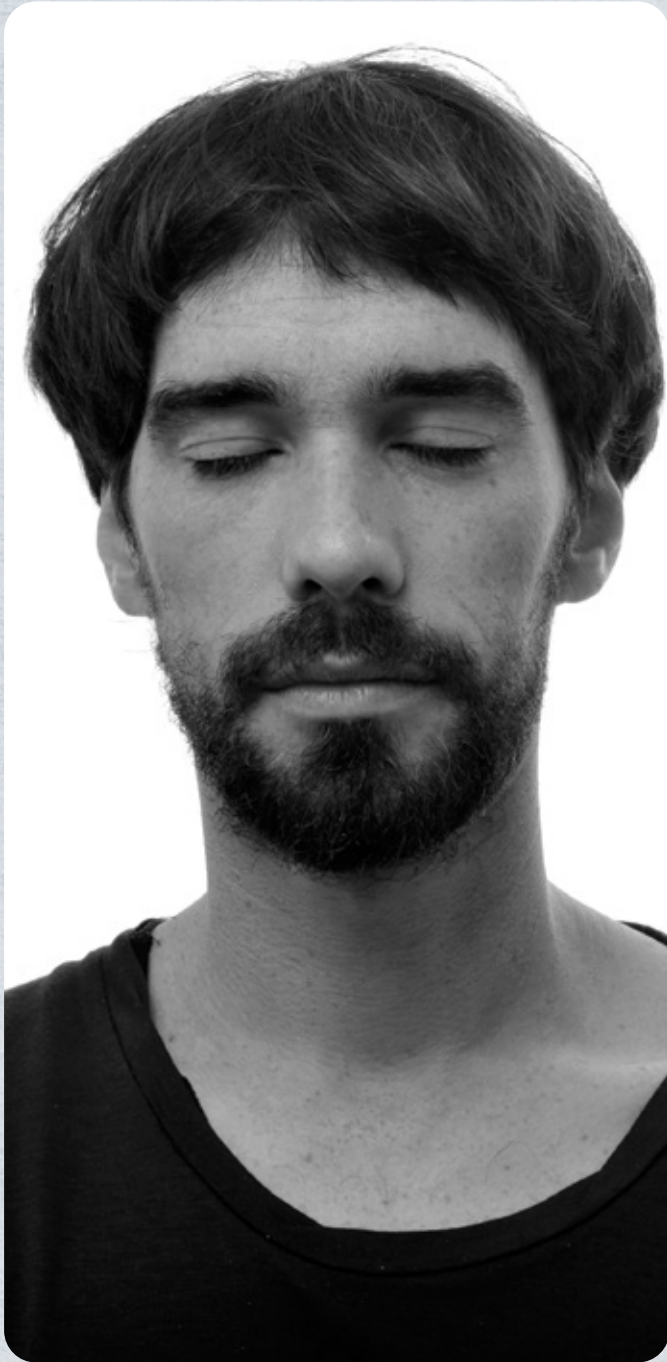
Essays about conspiracy theories

Is the Earth actually flat, and are transmitters for wireless networks large microwave ovens, which conspirators are using to heat the world to cause depression, cancer and the extinction of bees?

Are we controlled by those in the background, who have inserted microchips through the use of vaccines? Of late, we have been surrounded by masses of such tales, which are good candidates for conspiracy theories. That is why Dr. Tomaž Grušovnik, a philosopher and author of several scientific monographs, decided to investigate the foundations of conspiracism in his latest collection of essays. In his deliberations, which draws from the wealthy treasury of philosophical tradition, in a witty way, he deals with the everyday of modern individuals, which is full of fantastic and deep-seated quandaries. In doing so, he asks whether reality is perhaps even worse than what conspiracy theories paint it to be? The book also covers facing up to the enigma of why science, in a modern information society with a comprehensive educational system, fails to pacify doubts that arise around new technologies, natural science theories and some of the most important events.

› [NOMINATED FOR THE ROŽANČ AWARD IN 2022](#)

# MIHA BLAŽIČ N'TOKO



**MIHA BLAŽIČ N'TOKO** (1980) is a rapper and singer in the band Moveknowledge, who has in recent years – particularly since becoming a columnist for the journal *Mladina* – become the foremost voice of the “millennium generation”.



**THE SELF-EVIDENT WORLD** (*Samoumevni svet*) systematically and critically deals with the key narratives trying to make sense of the world around us. In a particular period in the past, historical processes were explained mainly through the category of social classes. Today, it seems that the key conflicts appear on the generational front, mostly between the generation of precarious workers without any possessions and those who still have permanent jobs and their own homes. Social differences, which also have an age dimension, exist, but is it really this dimension that is of key importance in the understanding of all the tensions that have developed in our societies, for example in relation to the labour market and the social state? Are social networks today a privileged terrain of social activism? These are the questions that N'Toko asks about the world that can no longer be taken for granted.

# TANJA TUMA



Foto: Saša Kovarčič

**TANJA TUMA** is a writer, editor and publisher. Shortly after graduating, Tanja joined the Cankarjeva založba Publishing House as a lexicographer, and later managed the Oxford Centre for many years as a director, where she worked on textbooks for teaching English, French and German as a foreign language. Tanja has collaborated with numerous major educational publishers. In 2013, she published the historical novel *Winds of Dalmatia* in English, the first part of a Balkan trilogy that deals with the history and present of the former Yugoslavia. In 2015, she caused a storm among Slovenian readers with her historical novel about the reconciliation *Česnje, bele in rdeče* (Karantanija Publishing House, 2015). The novel was also published a year later in English with the title *Red and White Cherries*. In 2018, Tanja published the second part of her Balkan trilogy *Tito's Legacy*, in which she shows the consequences of the communist dictatorship on the younger generations and mankind's attitude towards nature. In August 2020, Tanja published a novel in English about dying and the attitude to death titled *Going My Way*. In 2021, Mladinska knjiga published her novel *Brodnik* about the life of the publisher Lavoslav Schwentner. Tanja Tuma chaired the Women's Committee of the Slovenian PEN Mira Centre (2016-2019) and is the President of the Slovenian PEN Centre (current) and a member of the board of directors of the PEN International Women Writers Committee (PIWWC).

## **THE FERRYMAN** (*Brodnik*)

Tanja Tuma has written a historical novel based on the life of publisher and bookseller Lavoslav Schwentner (1865-1953). This book is an engaging and informative read, built on copious historical facts. Slovenia's most important publishing award is named after Lavoslav Schwentner, as he made a lasting contribution to creating the Slovenian cultural space through the books that he edited, published and sold. His legacy

includes an impressive publishing opus of prestigiously designed books by Slovenian modernists and other authors: Ivan Cankar, Oton Župančič, Dragotin Kette, Anton Aškerc, Josip Murn, Janez Trdina, and more. He edited the first Slovenian bookselling magazine, invested in promotional activities and connected the artistic and business sides of publishing. Tuma has woven together his professional and personal life with his contemporaries in a novelistic way, depicting a meeting of Lavoslav Schwentner, Ivan Cankar and Henrik Tuma in Kranjska Gora. The publisher, writer, and lawyer are also confronted with the issue of women's rights...



# METOD PEVEC



Foto: Tomaž Bercič

**METOD PEVEC**, Twenty years after writing the novel *An Evening in Dubrovnik*, the singer, writer and film director Metod Pevec has returned to the genre of criminal fiction. At first glance, the body in the novel *Sin*, found on a barrier at the Vevče power plant, is reminiscent of a tramp. But upon taking a more detailed look at his face and his personal belongings, it becomes clear to the detectives investigating whether the cause of death was murder, suicide or an accident, that the deceased didn't only have the identity of a homeless person. They gradually discover his special life story, which was closely linked to the Roman Catholic church. Pavel Žorž, which was the deceased's name, was a good man and his acts were not driven by narrow-minded ecclesiastical dogmas, but rather compassion for and empathy with one's neighbours. For many who needed help, he was a guru, a father and a protector. For the church, however, he was quite disruptive due to his headstrong ways. While the detectives are investigating the circumstances and motives for his death, dark secrets are revealed that the church has been persistently sweeping under the carpet. A tense read in which the reader does not know until the end whether diving into the twilight world will bring salvation or erasure of the deeds committed.



## **SIN** (*Greh*)

When he held a titanium cross in his hand, he sensed that the answer was right, only he doesn't understand it. He had never made an effort to understand religious emotions, probably because it bothered him that they dwell so close to fear, sin and the threats of the almighty God.



# BORIS PAHOR



**BORIS PAHOR** (1913-2022) was one of the central figures of European culture, a moral authority and a fighter for the Slovenian language and the rights of the Slovenian national community in Italy. He survived concentration camps from Dachau, Harzungen and Bergen-Belsen to Natzweiler-Struthof. He experienced first-hand the European totalitarianisms of the twentieth century: fascism, Nazism and communism. With the attitude of a responsible intellectual, throughout his life he cautioned against forgetting history and drew attention to attempts to curtail human and national freedoms and rights.

## **NECROPOLIS** (*Nekropola*)

The novel *Necropolis* (1967), the central work of Boris Pahor, one of the most influential Slovenian writers of the 20th and 21st centuries, is one of the rare works that rise from an authentic record to a superior piece of literature, which, through the immense power of otherwise simple words, are able to evoke the truth about the violence that abolished the smallest trace of humanity in mankind. Pahor survived pre-war and war crimes and concentration camps to bear witness to this. After the translation of *Necropolis* into German, he was described as a 'a world-class writer...' and was ranked alongside Primo Levi, Marguerite Duras and the Nobel laureate Imre Kertész.

With the attitude of a responsible intellectual, the author of *Necropolis* continuously warned that history must not be forgotten and drew attention to attempts to curtail human and national freedoms and rights, while describing the experience of life in concentration camps.

*Necropolis* is a stunning testimony and a masterful verbalisation. The novel was published in 1967 and begins with the author's visit to the memorial park near the Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp, then describes his experiences in other camps (Dachau, Bergen-Belsen...) to which he was sent after his arrest. After it was discovered in France and Germany, *Necropolis* attracted resounding acclaim and global recognition, and eventually also in its homeland as well as in neighbouring countries. The greatest of Boris Pahor's recognitions may have been that received from the Italians, who awarded him the prestigious Premio Napoli award for this novel. The award represented, among other things, a symbolic acknowledgment of the crimes committed against the Slovenian population under the Italian occupation.

**Translated into Croatian, Serbian, Macedonian, Hungary, Catalanian, French, Finnish, English, Italian, German, Romanian, Swedish, Albanian and Dutch languages. Rights also sold to Czech Republic, Spain, Ukraine, Kosovo and Israel.**

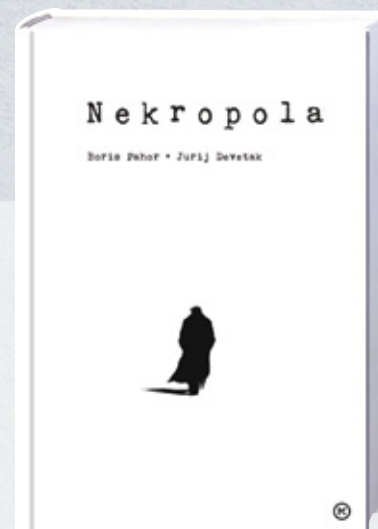


# JURIJ DEVETAK



Foto: Saša Kovačić

**JURIJ DEVETAK** (1997) studied comics at the International School of Comics in Padua, Italy. To date, he has drawn illustrations for the newspaper Dnevnik and caricatures for the newspaper Primorski dnevnik. The young Slovene from Trieste spent two years creating a comic novel based on the novel *Necropolis*. Devetak ended the creative process on the same day in May that Boris Pahor – the author of *Necropolis* and of the most translated Slovenian authors in history – passed away. Pahor approved the project and also lived to see the comic-style novel come to life. Working with Pahor was a great honour for Devetak.



**NECROPOLIS** (A graphic novel)

**Illustrated by Jurij Devetak**

*The message and mission of Necropolis – in an art comic*

*Necropolis* is a graphic novel that was created by a young artist from Trieste, Jurij Devetak. It is based on the famous autobiographical novel by Boris Pahor, one of the central figures of European culture. With his artistic language and exceptional drawing, Jurij has combined the multifaceted nature of the story into an atmospherically rich and harmonious whole.

Judging by the many translations and responses, *Necropolis* is one of the best written testimonies about concentration camp life in global literature. Its important message, i.e. a warning against the new emergence of totalitarianisms, appealed greatly to the young Trieste artist and illustrator Jurij Devetak (1997), who managed to convincingly capture the spirit of the prose proposal.

In doing so, the illustrator avoided direct descriptions of the concentration camp theme. The author of the accompanying text, Zdravko Duša, summed up his impressions of the first sketches: "In his story, Jurij Devetak mainly follows that of the author, but goes to the bottom of concentration camp nihilism and takes on the mission of conveying the author's tribute to the 'humiliated bones'."

**Rights sold to Italy and Germany.**

# TATJANA ROJC



The life story of **BORIS PAHOR** (1913), a Slovene writer and centenarian, is at the same time a story about one of the most turbulent centuries in human history. With his clear standpoints and engagement, the author has always challenged current authorities and found himself in some of the most difficult situations of the 20th century. That's How I Lived is also a story about Trieste and the lives of the people who moved there from rural areas, about the sad fates of Pahor's patriotic friends and, of course, about his own Calvary through the Third Reich's concentration camps. It offers an insight into Pahor's private life, his first experiences of love and the first meetings with people with similar intellectual views and allies. The reader follows Pahor through his much-noticed conflicts with Slovene politicians and his activities on the international stage in favour of the rights of minority cultures. The narrative is supplemented with documents and photographs.



Tatjana Rojc: **BORIS PAHOR – THAT'S HOW I LIVED**  
(*Boris Pahor – Tako sem živel*)

Tatjana Rojc, a literary historian, in a series of conversations for the Slovene section of RAI radio in Trieste, led the writer through the story of his life. The record of these conversations is the common thread throughout the book *That's How I Lived*. In 2015, Rojc received the historical-literary "Count Emilio and Janja Auersperg Award" for this biography, also published in Italian.

# ALMA M. KARLIN



For the first time the biography **ALMA M. KARLIN** – *Citizen of the World* throws a comprehensive light on the life and rich literary work of Alma Maximiliana Karlin (Celje, 1889–1950), a writer, world traveller, polyglot and polymath. The individual chapters show her unusual childhood, her youth, her first travels and explorations around Europe, her journey around the world between 1919 and 1928, her travelogues and literary work, the period after 1920, marked with book successes and fame around Europe, her cooperation with the writer, painter and literary manager Thea Schreiber Gammelín, her pacifist struggle against Nazism and the Partisan period, and her theosophy.

The story of Karlin's life, which is unusual and exceptional even today, one hundred and thirty years after her birth, is supplemented with new translations from her literary legacy. The monograph includes the testimonies of people who knew her, and the thoughts of the artists inspired by Karlin's personality and work. The biography includes pictorial material: photographs, manuscripts, Alma's drawings, postcards and the objects she collected and brought from five continents with the wish that they should one day be in a museum.

Jerneja Jezernik: **ALMA M. KARLIN – CITIZEN OF THE WORLD** (*Alma M. Karlin – Državljanica sveta*)

Jerneja Jezernik, expert on Slovene, translator and writer, knows a great deal about the life and work of Alma M. Karlin. For a number of years, she has been researching Karlin's intellectual legacy both in Slovenia, where Alma lived, and in Germany where during her life she published most of her books and articles. Jezernik has translated two of Karlin's books: *Smrtonosni trn in druge nenavadne zgodbe iz Peruja in Paname* (*The Deadly Thorn and Other Peculiar Stories from Peru and Panama*) and *Japonske novele* (*Japanese Novellas*).



# JANI VIRK



**JANI VIRK** (1962), writer, essayist and editor, is the author of eight novels, five short stories collections, a collection of poems and two books of essays. He has received the Golden Bird and Prešeren Fund awards for his work. *Brez imena* (No Name) is his ninth novel.



**NO NAME** (*Brez imena*) is a novel about a boy growing up in a normal urban family in Ljubljana. His childhood is nothing special, he has a circle of friends in the neighbourhood, he likes football and is even in a team, he is attracted by girls and erotic dreams. Towards the end of primary school his parents divorce, and the father goes to live in a town by the sea with his new partner. After moving with her son to an impersonal high-rise housing estate, the mother sinks ever deeper into numbness and strangeness. The boy's life with her becomes increasingly difficult, while his father, to whom he is particularly attached, becomes ever more distant. Of all the things the boy used to like, only football remains. Gradually, he falls into bad company, slowly loses his way in life, resorts to self-harming, and one of his last shelters is his football trainer, who offers himself as a surrogate father figure.

› NOMINATED FOR THE KRESNIK AWARD IN 2019

# MONIKA ŽAGAR



Foto: Jernej Prelac

**MONIKA ŽAGAR** (1949) is professor emerita in the Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch at the University of Minnesota who now lives in her native Slovenia. She is the author of many academic articles and books, among others *Knut Hamsun: The Dark Side of Literary Brilliance*. She also wrote journalistic articles and columns. After returning to Ljubljana, she published the story of her family as *Dva brata, trije svetovi* (*Two Brothers, Three Worlds*) which was nominated for the best debut book award in 2016, and is being turned into a documentary-feature film. *Košček čokolade v pasji dlaki* (*A Piece of Chocolate Covered in Dog Hair*) is her second novel.



**CHOCOLATE IN DOG'S HAIR** (*Košček čokolade v pasji dlaki*) is about an international family with two daughters adopted from Russia. The Slovene-Canadian family lives between Kranjska Gora and Ottawa, where after years of travelling around they find their place and settle down. Since some key scenes take place in Hong Kong and Novosibirsk, the novel's setting is truly international. The first-person narrator thinks globally and is in no way navel-gazing or wrapped in self-pity because of her lack of biological children. She deals with the various situations brought on by international adoption in a realistic way, with a pinch of humour and a great deal of warmth. At the end – regardless of whether the family is an extended, biological or blended one – all that is needed is a sufficiently solid network of security and ties woven between the individuals involved.



**WITHIN REACH** (*Diši po dosegljivem*)

*Private is political, we said, liberation of the body is liberation in the head. It will happen. When there are a lot of us, we will think alike, and the world will change by itself.*

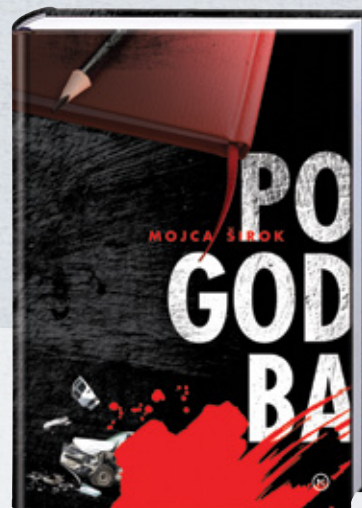
In her novel, Monika Žagar has plunged into a period that is still regarded as the most groundbreaking, creative and exciting. It was the end of the 1960s and beginning of the 1970s, a period of student movements, hippies, resistance to political and cultural authority, experimentation in art and new practices: communes as new ways of coexisting, rock concerts, a more responsible attitude towards nature, relaxed dressing and behaviour. Girls threw away their bras, wore mini skirts, became increasingly engaged in public life, and it seemed that freedom was as equally within their reach as men. The hero of the novel, Marjana, soon finds that it is not the case. Strong patriarchal patterns and prejudices also cultivate the boys of her generation. She is disappointed when she hears her faculty is called '*Babi uni*' – as if to imply that students can hardly wait to get married and have children so they won't need to work anymore. Her ambitions are much bigger, for her they confidently struggle and fly on the wings of time, which is everything in spite of her playfulness and creativity. In this novel about growing up in a specific time and the spreading of personal freedom, there is a particularly valuable female perspective, the view of the main heroine on a time of big changes in society.

# MOJCA ŠIROK



Foto: Saša Kovačič

**MOJCA ŠIROK** a columnist and journalist, has so far published three books of reportage: *Zadnji rimski cesar* (*The Last Roman Emperor*), *Oblast brez obraza* (*Power without a Face*) and *Od Benedikta do Frančiška* (*From Benedict to Francis*). The crime novel *Pogodba* (*The Contract*), which received the 2018 Blue Bird award, is her literary debut.



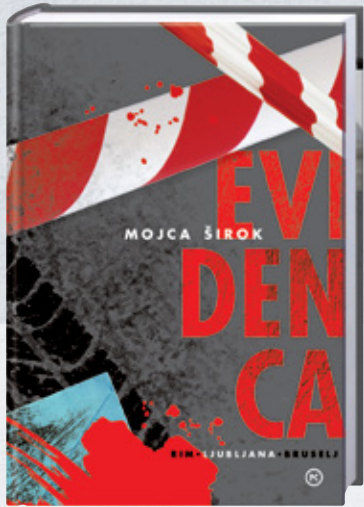
## **THE CONTRACT** (*Pogodba*)

The first body of a man is discovered by the police in a prestigious city quarter, in the villa belonging to one of the most successful lawyers in Rome. This murder is followed by a traffic accident at the other end of Rome and a suicide of a mafia boss in prison. But coincidences exist only in novels, says the chief police investigator. By examining the events behind the scenes, *Pogodba*, through juicy language, lively dialogues and unexpected plot twists takes the reader into the very heart of mafia activities. The detectives, prosecutors, journalists and politicians often share past connections. Their love affairs and friendships are interwoven with their professional duties, and the lines between where the state ends and the mafia begins, are very fuzzy.

**Rights sold to Croatia and Germany.**

- › WINNER OF THE MODRA PTICA AWARD IN 2018
- › NOMINATED FOR THE KRESNIK AWARD IN 2019





**THE EVIDENCE** (*Evidenca*) 2nd part of the ROME-LJUBLJANA-BRUSSELS trilogy

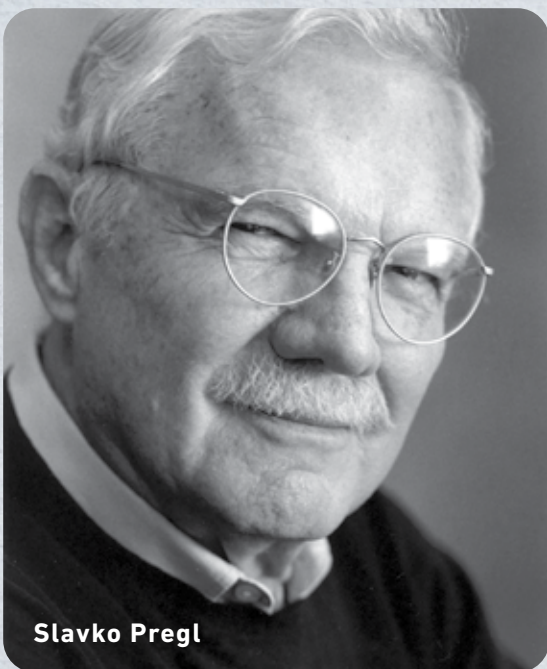
The police find a body in a sleepy neighbourhood in the centre of Ljubljana not far from the presidential palace. Three young journalists of the news web portal discover a machination, in which an influential MP and a company based in a tax haven are involved with land near the largest airport in the country. In a confrontation between candidates for the European elections, a well-known television journalist accuses the important MP of being a collaborator of the former Yugoslav state security service. The three seemingly unrelated events have common roots in the period before Slovenia's independence. The revelation of the identity of the corpse draws from oblivion the dark shadow of the past, and the net in which criminals, politicians, businessmen and journalists are entangled begins to unfold at breakneck speed. In this political thriller, Mojca Širok writes about criminal events in Slovenia and the book is full of twists and surprises. It is a tense read that speaks of blurred borders and hidden connections in the world of politics, crime and the media.



**THE EMPTINESS** (*Praznina*)

In the third part of the trilogy, the action is set in Brussels. It's a political thriller where you never know who is to blame, because behind the scenes there is actually an invisible system that is invulnerable and that restores itself. *The Emptiness* reveals the working mechanisms of both white-collar crime in Brussels and the drug mafia in nearby Antwerp. The key twist in the book is that unseen forces take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic for post-pandemic relief. After many twists, turns and surprises, it also finds answers to many questions. Will anyone recognise themselves in this book?

# SLAVKO PREGL, LEON POGELŠEK



Slavko Pregl

**SLAVKO PREGL** (1945) is the author of over fifty books. They have been translated into fifteen languages. He has received a number of awards at home and abroad. He was the president of the Slovene Publishers' Association, the Reading Badge Society and the Slovene Writers' Association. Books for adults: *Razkošje v glavi* (*Abundance in the Head*) (with Mate Dolenc), 1974; *PPP* (with Albert Papler and Žarko Petan), 1977; *Basni* (*Fables*), 1978; *Olimpiada v živalskem vrtu* (*Olympics in the Zoo*), 1990; *S knjigo po svetu* (*Around the World With a Book*), 2003; *Zadnja želja* (*Last Wish*), 2004; *Kukavičje jajce* (*Cuckoo's Egg*), 2013; *Basni* (*Fables*), 2014; *Prerok na tankem ledu* (*Prophet on Thin Ice*), 2015; *Poker z ničlami* (*Poker with Zeros*), 2016.



Leon Pogelšek

**LEON POGELŠEK** (1963) in 1984 began selling antiques and works of art, first at the flea market in Ljubljana and later also in Trieste, Villach, Graz, Zagreb and Belgrade. Between 1996 and 2001, together with Jaka Prijatelj, he led the gallery Anonimus in Ljubljana. In 2007, he led a cooking show on RTV Slovenia *Kuhajmo z Leonom* (*Cooking with Leon*) and published the book *Kuhajmo brez zavor* (*Cooking Without Brakes*). In 2013, he took on the curatorship and management of the oldest Ljubljana gallery Galerija Kos in the Nebotičnik passageway.



### THE SECRET IS CALLED ERICH ŠLOMOVIČ

*(Skrivnost se imenuje Erich Šlomovič)*

Bata, a Belgrade antique dealer who does not speak any foreign languages, chooses young Leon from Ljubljana as his assistant for deals around Europe. Bata seems to be someone who will introduce the ambitious art student into the society of elite gallerists and high earnings. This promise becomes even more tangible when in an old villa in Zagreb, whilst buying a magnificent Vienna book case, they come across a dusty catalogue of Šlomovič's exhibition, in which there is a list of French Impressionist paintings, and others from Modigliani to Renoir, from Kandinsky to Picasso, etc. The paintings disappeared one night in 1939 when two trains collided on their way to an exhibition in Belgrade and since then their fate has been shrouded in mystery. Occasionally they appear on the art market or in articles at home and abroad, even a film has been made about them ... In Pregl's novel, however, the story about the "secret of the Šlomovič" collection, full of lies, twists, deceptions, humour, hedonism and eroticism, is for the first time told by a player who created it from within.

**Rights sold to Slovakia, Serbia, Bosnia and UK.**

### TAINTED GOLD *(Pokvarjeno zlato)*

Having lost a fortune, the great combiner and main character of this novel, calmly drinks his coffee and says: "Money comes and goes."

The story about Marshal Tito's decision to build a Yugoslav atomic bomb is well known. The extremely expensive operation was stopped; some scientists fell ill due to radiation and were sent to Paris for treatment, and the state was also unable to bear the huge costs. The high-profile film *Guardians of the Formula*, among others, talks about this. However, it is not known what happened to the special alloy, which was part of the protective envelope of the nuclear reactor and which for several decades lay in a pile of old iron under the canopy next to the Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences near Belgrade. After a series of strange coincidences, counterfeiters got hold of it and carried out an incredible jewellery and financial fraud of European proportions. In a story full of Balkan Luddism and arrogance, the mastermind of Operation Bata, together with his colleagues, creates precious products from the alloy, travels to European jewellers, auction houses and banks, and sells the products for incredible sums. In doing so, he does not bypass beds with attractive women, and prestigious restaurants.

# VLADIMIR P. ŠTEFANEC

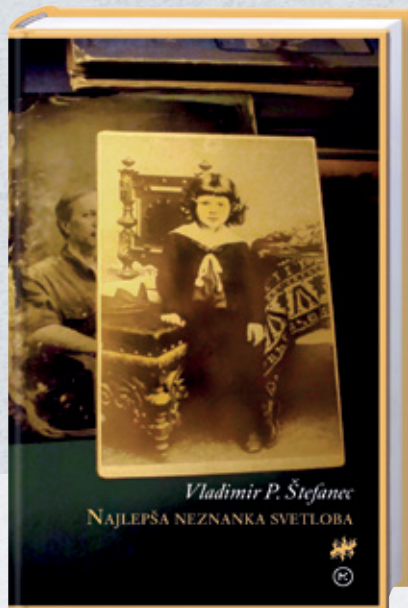


**VLADIMIR P. ŠTEFANEČ** (1964), writer, journalist and university lecturer, is the author of nine novels (three have been shortlisted for the Kresnik Award) and one short story collection. *Najlepša neznanka svetloba* (*The Most Beautiful Stranger Light*) is his tenth novel.



## **OUR MAN IN THE SKY** (*Naš človek na nebu*)

This novel tells the story of Josip Križaj (1911-1948), a pilot of the air forces of the kingdoms of Italy and Yugoslavia, the air force of the Spanish Republic, and partisan pilot. His life was shaped by the desire to fly, freedom, light and the fight against darkness, and fascism, which marked him in different ways in Italy, Spain, and Yugoslavia. He was a man whose destiny was defined by his origins, the geography of his life, and the fact that, because of his nationality or a combination of political circumstances, he was out of place in almost any environment. The exception was Spain, where he was among the first foreign volunteers to join the defence of the republic. There he flew in André Malraux's air force unit, met people like Ernest Hemingway and Robert Capa in the famous Hotel Florida in Madrid, and fought battles in the sky against former colleagues from the "squadron of death" of the Italian air force. The question of whether he was a hero, an adventurer, a prisoner of circumstances, or something else hovers over the story of Josip Križaj, but it is difficult to overlook the elements in his life from which legends are born.



**THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STRANGER LIGHT** (*Najlepša neznanka svetloba*)

The novel's starting point is six portraits on the desk of the main character. These photographs show the people closest to him, with whom his life to date, its determinants, longings, regrets, captivity, the possibility of liberation, has been connected. Through fragments of memory, their stories are woven into a common story about their past, torn between the seemingly carefree life in the late nineteenth century until the 1920s, when the looming shadows of world events reached Slovenia.

In this novel about liberation achieved through the clearing of an individual's past and his family's, about everyday melancholy and the melancholy of everyday life, which nevertheless includes some of what makes life exciting and precious, the main character keeps wondering what distance to choose for the best photographic result, as well as how close to let someone come without letting them penetrate his isolation.

**Rights sold to Germany.**

› NOMINATED FOR THE KRESNIK AWARD IN 2019

# MARJAN STROJAN



**MARJAN STROJAN** made his name as a translator by translating Beowulf, Chaucer, Milton, Shakespeare, Robert Frost and James Joyce, and with his *Anthology of English Poetry*. In 1995 he received the Sovre Award for his translation of *Beowulf* and in 2004 for John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and in 2015 a Prešeren Fund Award for a translation of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. He has written eight poetry collections and in 2000 received the Veronika Award for the collection *Parniki v dežju* (*Steamers in the Rain*)



*No one feels  
another's grief,  
No one understands  
another's joy.  
We think we can  
reach into another's  
heart But we only  
meet and pass each  
other by.*

Marjan Strojjan

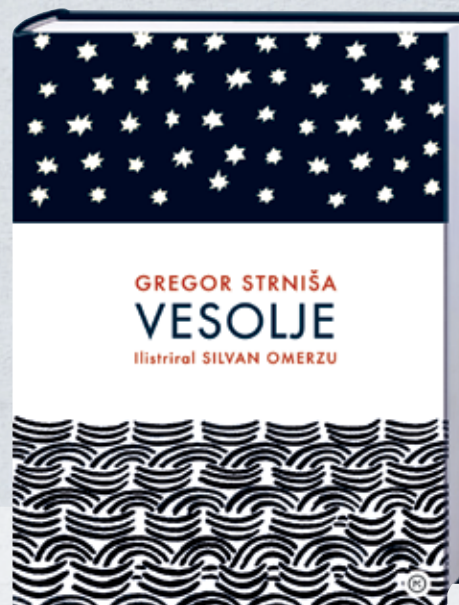
**HILLS, CLOUDS, BEST REGARDS** (*Hribi, oblaki, lepe pozdrave*)

His eighth collection continues his unique poetics. It comprises short lyrically expressive poems and long epics, rhymed and unrhymed verse, playfully humorous and intellectual, directly explicit and narratively equivocal poems. The poetic motifs are a reflection of all the contrasting approaches offered by literary history and real life. The feelings and individual scenes are put into words so masterfully that we can see them in a hitherto unknown light, in a fresh and unpretentious manner. Poetic expression par excellence.

# GREGOR STRNIŠA



**GREGOR STRNIŠA** (1930-1987), is one of the most important Slovene dramatists and poets of the 20th century. He summarised his work – from the first *Mozaiki* (*Mosaics*, 1959) to the last two *Škarje* (*Scissors*) and *Jajce* (*An Egg*) (1975) – in his own selection, entitled *Vesolje* (*Universe*, 1983). He added to the poems a self-reflective essay, a poetic treatise, one of the key works of its kind on Slovene poetry. His poetic ambition was to unite the smallest detail with the all-pervasiveness of the universe: penetrating our inner worlds is like penetrating external space – the universe.



## **UNIVERSE** (*Vesolje*)

His poetic ambition was to unite the smallest detail with the all-pervasiveness of the universe: penetrating our inner worlds is like penetrating external space – the universe. More than thirty-five years since its first publication, we are now reprinting *Vesolje* together with drawings by Silvan Omerzu. His images are simple, almost ascetic, creating the effect of pictograms or artistic haikus. The figures are drawn with childlike simplicity, but purposefully and clearly as if they were chiselled out. They are like primal records from the depth of the soul, which will vibrate anew with Strniša's poems.

# NEJC ZAPLOTNIK



Foto: Gaja

**NEJC ZAPLOTNIK** was one of the most charismatic people of the Slovene alpine scene. His book *Pot (The way)* is a Slovene bestseller and to this day, after one half of a quarter of a century after the first release in 1981, it still gets re-printed ever-so-often. Nejc Zaplotnik is remembered as an exceptional man and his autobiographical book *The Way*, is dealing with his climbing life. Besides climbing several new routes in the mountains of Slovenia, he was active in the Alps, Yosemite and the Himalayas, where he climbed new routes on Hidden Peak, Makalu and Everest (the West Ridge). Nejc Zaplotnik died under an ice avalanche on the South face of Manaslu with his expedition colleague Ante Bucan.

***"Anyone looking for goal will remain empty when it will be reached, but whoever finds a way, will always carry the goal inside."***

Nejc Zaplotnik

**THE PATH** (*Pot*) is a novel by Slovenian author and climber Nejc Zaplotnik (1952-1983). It was first published in Ljubljana 1981. The book narrates, in a novelized way, Zaplotnik's life and experiences as an alpinist in postwar Slovenia, culminating in the ascension of both Makalu and Everest. It is 42 years since Andrej Štremfelj and Nejc Zaplotnik made history as the first Slovenians who reached the summit of the highest mountain in the world. By 1979, the summit of Mount Everest had been reached by every major ridge, yet a large expedition from Yugoslavia arrived to top their last achievement of making the first ascent of Makalu South Face. The West Ridge of Everest was a long unconventional line to the top. It was first climbed by the Americans in 1963, and is still well celebrated in the United States today. Except the Americans climbed only the upper half. The Yugoslavians came to traverse it all starting at the base, low in the Lho La pass. Like many national expeditions in those days, it was huge. It included 25 Yugoslavian mountaineers, 19 Sherpas, three cooks, three kitchen boys, two mail runners, 700 porters and 18 tons of gear. The ascent had to overcome a steep and severe gap, which required a winch to overcome so it was possible to haul the gear over the broken portion of the ridge. All efforts and ingenuity combined, the Yugoslavians positioned three Slovenian climbers at Camp V who were close to each other, Nejc Zaplotnik, Andrej Štremfelj, and Andrej's brother, Marko Štremfelj. The goal of the expedition was reached on 13 May 1979 at 13.51, when Andrej Štremfelj and Nejc Zaplotnik stood as the first Slovenes on the roof of the world. "We sit by the Chinese pyramid and we don't know what to do!" (Nejc Zaplotnik)

**Rights sold to Italy, Poland, North Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia and Switzerland.**



# TINA GABRIELA GORENJAK

Foto: Saša Kovarič



**TINA GABRIELA GORENJAK** (1972) is an actress, a versatile artist and a favourite among Slovenian audiences. During her long and rich career, she has appeared in television series, shows, films and theatre. She has tried her hand as a stand-up comedian, singer and director. Tina's witty and communicative original texts and performances leave a special mark. She tackles topics with which the modern woman can easily identify, in fact, they are like a comforting and fun conversation with a friend. Her debut book *Finding Love* is just like that too.



## **FINDING LOVE** (*Najti ljubezen*)

Fun, emotional, real: The debut book by the well-known actress and comedian Tina G. Gorenjak reads like a mixture of stand-up comedy and a confidential conversation with a friend, in which the author reveals her adventures in the search for love. A clever, juicy and immensely entertaining read that will move you and make you laugh to the point of tears.

This is a story based on real events, in which the actress's experiences are intertwined through various characters. Anyone who has ever looked for love will definitely recognise themselves in her experiences and those of her friends. In terms of partnerships and yourself. This is a book about love, friendship and hope.

The book is brimming with the life and tragicomic experiences of the main character, with whom readers can easily identify. Although the book is primarily characterised by humour, readers will find in it a series of deep spiritual considerations and life lessons that give strength, hope and a bright view of the world, as well as consolation and the knowledge that you are not alone and the only one for whom it can be said: When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

# DAVID ZUPANČIČ

Foto: Saša Kovarčič



**DAVID ZUPANČIČ** (1991) is a young doctor who, at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, confirmed the first case of infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus in Slovenia in the emergency clinic of the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Fever Conditions in Ljubljana. He is also an online influencer and the author of the popular podcast *The Art of Laziness*, and specialist in infectious diseases at the University Medical Centre Ljubljana. He is known for presenting scientific information and events in a humorous way. During the outbreak of the virus, he was constantly involved in work in emergency rooms and intensive care units.

## *The “Slovenian Adam Kay”*

### **THE SCIENCE OF A PEACEFUL LIFE** (*Znanost mirnega življenja*)

This new book by a popular doctor is a story about finding peace in hectic everyday life. The book is based on the author’s own experiences and challenges, but at the same time has a strong scientific basis, as the advice is supported by citing more than 70 expert studies.

Due to the strain that accompany studying medicine and the medical profession, David Zupančič started working on mindfulness early on – an effective and popular method for managing stress and achieving a state of full presence in a given moment. The author has spent twelve years researching, studying and practicing this method, which he says changed his life. The book is designed in a popular, practical way that encourages reflection, while at the same time offering us comfort that we are not alone in the struggle with the demands of the modern world.

### **LIFE IN THE GREY ZONE** (*Življenje v sivi coni*)

*Thousands of stories from the time of the COVID-19 pandemic*

The book *Life in the Grey Zone* was written during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, many people had a lot to say about a lot of things. Some were very loud, some were shaken to the core, others were confident and defiant like never before.

Meanwhile, difficult battles and personal dramas of patients took place in hospital rooms and operating theatres. The crisis affected society and triggered states of emergency and tensions of global proportions. David Zupančič describes it humorously, knowledgeably, and accurately. Although the study and treatment of infectious diseases is a serious profession, David Zupančič writes about his experiences, fears, triumphs and defeats in such a way that medicine and healthcare become an endless source of situational comedy and entertaining scenes in his writings, as well as raising important questions for ethics and life.

# DANAJA LORENČIČ



Foto: Saša Kovačič

**DANAJA LORENČIČ** (1982) is a sociologist, columnist and editor who doesn't have a magic wand to deal with the challenges of modern life, but she does have expertise, life experience and compassion. In her debut novel, *Ana v meni* (2014), she described her difficult personal experience with anorexia, and since then she has matured from a fragile girl into a woman who tries to enjoy all the flavours of life, from motherhood to kaiserschmarrn with composure.



## **IMPERFECT** (*Nepopolna*)

What is life like under the curse of perfectionism? When every criticism feels like a death sentence? Sociologist Danaja Lorenčič's new book is a shocking confession about dealing with perfectionism, which cuts into every pore of her life. The findings and advice in the book are supported by professional knowledge, while at the same time the author openly reveals stories from her personal life. Among other things, she describes how she learned through ups and downs that every criticism is not a death sentence, that every wrinkle does not mean disfigurement and that it is not worth ending a partnership because of the wrong cheese.

One of the characteristics of perfectionism is that it is difficult to limit it to just one area of our life. In individual chapters, the author describes the effects of perfectionism on relationships, work, household chores, and the role of mother and daughter. The book identifies many people who are driven by impossibly high standards, through which they really want to achieve only one thing: to be accepted and loved as a child, parent, partner, friend, employee, housekeeper, etc.

# ZVEZDANA MLAKAR, ROK SMOLEJ



Foto: Saša Kovačič

**ZVEZDANA MLAKAR** after studying drama and speech acted in various Slovenian theatres and films. In 1978, she won the Actress of the Year award for the role of Suzana in Štiglič's *Celebration of Spring*. She has been a member of the Ljubljana Drama since 1987; in 1997 she received the Borštnik Award for the role of Ana in Draga Potočnjak's *Butterfly Dance*, and a year later the Stane Sever Foundation Award for the role of Ruth in Pinter's play *Ashes to Ashes*. In addition to her work at the Ljubljana Drama, she often participates in other theatres, acting in the play *5žensk.com*, which is considered the first play in Slovenia that broke the magical limit of 100,000 visitors. Her work on television screens brought her wider recognition, as a storyteller she participated in the children's television series *Golden Dust*, acted in numerous television series and finally tried her hand as the host of the talk show *Zvezdana*. During the time she hosted the show, she was twice nominated for the title of Slovenian Woman of the Year.

**ROK SMOLEJ** is a television editor, journalist and presenter at RTV Slovenia. Editorially, he created the concept of the morning programme of public television. During his editorship, the show *Good Morning* was awarded the Viktor professional media award for the best entertainment TV show and recorded an above-average share of viewers. As editor-in-chief, he managed the editorial department at Television Slovenia, specializing in programmes in the infotainment genre. He is an author, co-author and screenwriter of many TV shows, among others: *Time for Manca Košir*, *Close Up* with Vesna Milek, *In Love With Life* with Nina Osenar, *The Last Word* with Katarina Kresal, *Christmas Eve* with Helena Blagne, and others. In 2015, he created the concept of intimate evening conversations that break taboos, and invited actress Zvezdana Mlakar to participate as a presenter.

## CONVERSATIONS THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

*(Pogovori, ki so mi spremenili življenje)*

The popular actress and TV presenter, who is popular in Croatia as well as Slovenia – many Croats have been guests in her show – and who inspires people on screen and off, Zvezdana Mlakar has teamed up with longtime editor Rok Smolej to co-author a memoir about the show that changed the Slovenian media landscape and herself. The uplifting writing will inspire everyone who looks for life lessons in books, loves Zvezdana and enjoyed watching the show, which ended recently. The book recalls the inspiring guests she hosted, the shocking stories and topics she covered, and the taboos she destroyed. It is a look at everything through Zvezdana's eyes, and along the way provides many glimpses into Zvezdana's life.

**Rights sold to Croatia.**

# MIHA ŠALEHAR

Foto: Saša Kovacič



**MIHA ŠALEHAR** is a Slovenian television and radio presenter. He grew up in Šentvid in Ljubljana. He graduated in 2011 from the higher education programme of the Multimedia Institute and Academy in Ljubljana. In 1997, he and his brother, Matevž Šalehar-Hamo, founded the music group Babewatch, which disbanded in 2000. Miha has been working as a presenter at RTV Slovenija since 2000. In addition to working for RTV, he also writes. In 2018, Mladinska knjiga published a collection of his *Duh česa* (The Spirit of Something) columns. He lives in Podgora in Šentvid, Ljubljana.



**AN ADVENTURER OF ERRORS** / An Over Emotional Guide to Understanding a Middle-Aged Alpha Male (*Pustolovec zmote*)

One day, the alpha male realises that he is no longer either the optimal age or the optimal weight. It strikes him that half of his life is behind him – the good half, and that he does not have an instruction manual for the other half. To give meaning to persistence and make a reckoning with yourself for everything in the past. In just over forty texts, readers learn about all the failures, mistakes, errors, reflections and ideas on how to give meaning to middle age. Darling, motorcycle, Dakar? Extremely honest and witty reading that inspires one to think and make sense of our second half of life.

# ALJOŠA BAGOLA

Foto: Saša Kovacic



After his twenty-year advertising career, **ALJOŠA BAGOLA** (1979), who was named Slovenian creative director of the decade, devoted himself intensively to writing. Readers were impressed by his debut novel *'How To Burn Out and Take Life Into Your Own Hands'*, which became a bestseller and was reprinted three times in just the first few months after publication.

Aljoša holds a degree in communication from the Faculty of Social Sciences, where he also worked as a lecturer for many years. He is a recognised consultant in the field of creativity, a lecturer in the field of modern mental health whose talks are a sellout, a popular columnist and a media commentator.

## **HOW TO BURN OUT** (*Kako izgoreti*)

The author of the book *How To Burn Out* writes an honest confession about dealing with burnout.

With lucid turns of thought and bravura wordplay, he masterfully leads readers through inspiring life stories, shocking recognitions, unexpected insights and unusual reflections on how to effectively deal with the frenzy of the modern world and, despite everything, find in it a hint of comfort, calmness and optimism.

*"That's why we don't try too hard for greatness. That's why we don't try too hard for our legacy, that's why we don't travel with too much baggage, that's why we don't give in to unnecessary suffering. The meaning of life is not in what you leave behind, but in what life leaves in you."*

**Rights sold to Croatia.**

## **HAPPINESS, PLEASE** (*Srečo, prosim*)

In his new book, Aljoša Bagola delves into the research of the extremely elusive and hard-to-achieve happiness. In doing so, he notes that our happiness doesn't really depend on how successful we are at imitating the success of others, but above all on the courage and determination to face our dark sides and in a healthy way connect them to our integrity. This is the only way can we discover and realise our uniqueness – our essence. Aljoša Bagola has come up with another bravura masterpiece, full of inspiring life stories and linguistic swings, from the pen of an astute observer of one's own interior and current social events.

*"Life is short, so we need to take care to ensure we don't end up feeling like we drew the short straw. Someday, in the distant future, we will make a final judgment about our rectitude – how bravely we looked life in the eye when deep furrows were plowed into our faces, how our nightmares could not impoverish our dreams, how we didn't let our brightest goals be torn from our hands. When we commit to something, we go beyond our given gifts. When we dream with intention, everything unintentional that life brings us is easier to accept and overcome, and when we are committed to our goals, we don't give up easily."*

**Rights sold to Croatia.**

# NIKA KOVAČ



Foto: Saša Kovačić

**NIKA KOVAČ** (1993) is a sociologist and anthropologist. She has done many things in her life: acted in improvisational theatre, been involved in various activist organisations, led workshops for children and youths, worked at the Mladinska knjiga Publishing House, at the Advocate of the Principle of Equality, and at the Pionirski dom Centre for Youth Culture, and published two books: *Brave Girls* and *My Decision: testimonies, rights and prejudices about abortion*. She is known as an activist who runs the 8th March Institute, whose main purpose is to call into question various forms of subordination, especially in the field of gender, and to place inequality in the wider social context. Nika ran the *Čas je ZA* (It's time to say YES) campaign in support of the Slovenian Family Code proposal, which provided for same-sex marriages, and as part of her work with the 8th March Institute, she led the *Samo ja pomeni ja* (Only Yes Means Yes) campaign, which led to the redefinition of the crime of rape, as well as the *Za pitno vodo* (For Drinkable Water) referendum campaign against the Slovenian Waters Act. She is currently studying at the famous Columbia University in New York, where she is the only European that was invited by the Foundation of former US president Barack Obama.



## **LETTERS TO YOU** (*Pisma tebi*)

In the book *Letters to You*, she writes about themes including stereotypes, prejudices, social networks, sexual harassment and violence, fear of mistakes and loss, consumerism, beauty ideals, attitudes towards authority, and competitiveness, while also considering whether men and women can really just be friends, and why friends are so important. Thus, the design of the book – the author contributed photographs from her personal archive – is as personal as the text.

**Rights sold to Croatia.**

# ANAMARIJA LUKOVAC



**ANAMARIJA LUKOVAC** was a columnist for Cosmopolitan magazine for six years. Other media have epitomised her posts and her thoughts have been shared online by numerous readers. She was chosen as a columnist in a competition, where she won from among the cca. 1,000 other candidates. She was 19 years old at the time and from then on she was the only columnist of the Slovenian Cosmopolitan magazine. After writing her column, she worked as an assistant editor-in-chief, today she works as a screenwriter for a major advertising agency.



**FLOWERING** (*Cvetenje*) is a selection of the best of the columns written by Anamarija Lukovac, published in Cosmopolitan magazine. In her column, which she has been writing for six years, Anamarija reflects on various topics that young women deal with, and in doing so reveals her life and shares it with readers. Readers learn that she travelled a large part of the world, lived abroad several times (and gained invaluable experience that only other people can bring), completed two different study courses, met many interesting people and tested herself in relationships with them, lost and found herself time and again, reflected on ecology, coped with anxiety and panic disorder, changed jobs, got to know her body and the strength and role of women, looking for her meaning, and asked all the questions a growing human asks: Do I really have to love myself?, What am I most proud of?, Do I have a guilty conscience because of ecology?, Why don't I have a boyfriend?...

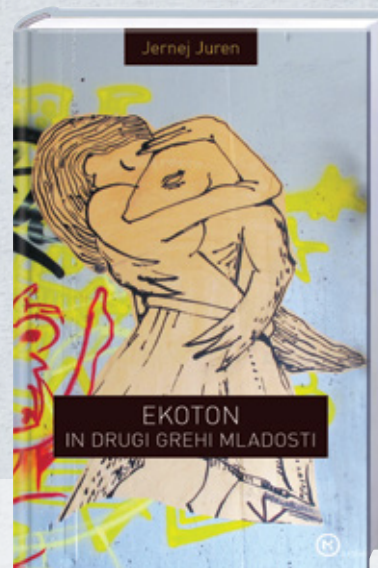


# JERNEJ JUREN

Foto: DK



**JERNEJ JUREN** is a writer, comic script writer and musician who writes songs for his street swing band 'Počeni Škafi' (The Cracked Pails) and for other ensembles. Jernej Juren's stories are contemporary and humorous, and despite their apparent ease of reading, they offer a deeper insight into the psychodynamics of today's world and relationships. Jernej Juren (1982) graduated in law and almost graduated in Czech. He has translated several Czech novels, worked as an editor and now makes a living as a musician, comic book screenwriter and writer. Together with Izar Lunaček, he created the graphic novel *Animal Noir*, which was published in the USA.



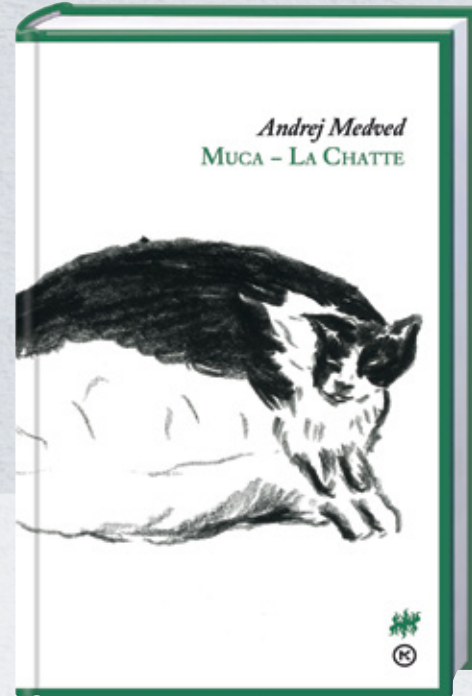
## ECOTONE

In his debut novel *Ecotone*, the first half of the stories take place in Metelkova, an autonomous social and cultural centre in Ljubljana, within the bustle and coexistence of various alternative cultures, hairstyles, clothes and behaviour. Its clubs – Gala Hall, Pogromka, Audrey's – attract different 'ecosystems' through various types of music, which sooner or later mix with one another, thereby creating something called an 'ecotone' in ecology. Nightlife, socialising, dancing, conversations, and courtship rituals bring ever new acquaintances and change old friendships. Male-female relationships take shape in endlessly different ways, not cemented into a single mould. And it is this fluidity and chaos of friendly and caring relationships that remain at the centre of the author's attention in the second half of the stories, when the events move from Metelkova to other venues.

# ANDREJ MEDVED



**ANDREJ MEDVED** (born 3 February 1947) is a Slovene poet, editor and translator that has published numerous poetry collections. He won the Prešeren Foundation Award in 2003 for his poetry collection *Hiperion*, the Jenko Award in 2008 for his poetry collection *Približevanja* (*Convergences*) and the Veronika Award in 2010 for *Razlagalec sanj* (*Interpreter of Dreams*).



## **THE CAT** (*Muca – La Chatte*)

The Cat, this stunningly gentle book of poetry containing one poem about one cat, arose from loving observation of and real conversation with a cat. Andrej Medved followed the movements of the animal with a truly child-like fascination and attempted to capture them in a net of verses that come across as luxuriously filigreed yet ascetically precise in particular poems, in such a way that his speech is not just human but emerges from the space where human and animal meet. In this book there is some resemblance to what the expressionist painter Franz Marc desired: to paint the world as animals see it.

# UROŠ AHČAN



Renowned plastic and aesthetic surgeon **UROŠ AHČAN** is the winner of the Derganc Award for Medical Journalism and the Delo Personality of the Year Award 2018. He is a popular full-time professor at the Faculty of Medicine at Ljubljana University and the author of numerous professional and popular articles, as well as books that have been translated into several languages.



## **SCALPEL** (*Skalpel*)

the renowned aesthetic and reconstructive surgeon's new book is an insightful chronicle of experiences and a life deeply marked by reconstructive and aesthetic surgery.

The author skillfully touches on not only the technical details of his profession, but also on emotional complications and personal themes. Through diary entries, true stories and personal reflections, he explores the complexity and beauty of the surgical profession, while unflinchingly tackling the accompanying challenges, including duty, envy, prestige and the difficult questions of modern medicine. The author has included QR codes for individual chapters to make the book even more vivid. Scanning the codes provides additional story-related content.

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